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ANWAR-UL-HAQ KAKAR NAMED AS PAK'S CARETAKER PRIME MINISTER

Kakar emerged as the consensus candidate during consultations between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the leader of Opposition

A SURPRISE PICK FROM SMALLER PROVINCE

Kakar is an ethnic Pushtun from Balochistan and has been a very active politician. He was appointed as the Balochistan Awami Party's (BAP) senate leader in 2018 — a position he held until five months ago. Kakar's name was not on the list of probable for the post of interim PM. Opposition leader Raja Riaz said Kakar was chosen as it was decided that the interim PM should be from a smaller province

ANALYSTS CALL HIM LIGHTWEIGHT POLITICIAN

- As per Pakistan's Constitution, the president must, in consultation with the PM and the leader of Opposition, appoint a caretaker PM who will head a neutral political set-up as the country gears up for general elections
- Analysts called Kakar a "lightweight politician" with little influence, who will need the support of the military to solve the problems he may face

TODAY

ANWAR-UL-HAQ KAKAR TO BE SWORN IN AS INTERIM PRIME MINISTER

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

BJP-backed contractors making charges: DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

IN a new twist to BBMP contractors' allegation that they have to pay 15% commission to get their bills cleared, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday alleged that those making allegations against him and the Congress government are sponsored by BJP.

"Not only Karnataka State Contractors' Association president D Kempanna, but also office-bearers of other contractors' associations have clarified that no minister or MLA in our government has sought bribes. But by politicising this issue, former BJP ministers R Ashoka, Dr CN Ashwathnarayan and K Gopalaiah are trying to protect the 'sharks' using the contractors. Only BJP-sponsored contractors are making such allegations," he told reporters.

"There are many scams in which BJP leaders are involved. I am going to prove their role. This is why I have ordered an investigation," he said. P4

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BIZARRE GUIDELINES

JUDOKAS PAY UP FOR INT'L EVENT, LOSE DEPOSIT

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

THE Judo Federation of India (JFI) non-refundable security deposit policy has burnt a hole in the judokas' pockets. The JFI, that is being run by an administrator, framed guidelines last year making it mandatory for judokas to submit ₹50,000 each as security deposit to allow them compete in international competitions.

The criterion apparently backfired when 20 out of 27 judokas, supposed to compete at Commonwealth Judo Championships — 2023 at Gqeberha, Port Elizabeth (South Africa), could not participate due to a delay in obtaining visas. As the participation was cleared at no cost to the government, they not only ended up paying ₹50,000 each to the JFI but also spent more than a lakh per head on flight tickets, registration fees and accommodation charges. The championships was scheduled from August 2 to 6.

What's more baffling is the fact that the tournament, which was meant for cadet, junior, senior and veteran competitors, saw Indian contingent participating without coaches as none of them wanted to spend from their own pockets. It left one junior girl and a boy to fend for themselves with only their seniors to take care of them. Interestingly, the JFI has made exceptions for a few.

"We got visas a day after our flight was scheduled to take off so we were left with no option than to skip the tournament. The organisers notified about the tournament in March but the JFI waited till July for completing formalities," a judoka, who missed the championships, told this daily. "I have deposited ₹50,000 with the JFI, spent around ₹70,000 on the flight tickets and paid ₹19000 for registration and bus transport. I have also paid for accommodation. I will get the nominal refund for flight tickets only," added the judoka.

A strong contender for gold, the judoka informed that the organisers pay prize money between ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh to medal winners which help them recover the cost. Rajan CS, assistant secretary of JFI, who mailed the circular to recognised state associations in July last year, said the guidelines were framed by the advisory board and JFI needs deposits to cover penalties in case of withdrawals.

Congress will rebuild Manipur, says Rahul

Gets big reception in Wayanad on first trip after LS seat is restored

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kalpetta

IN his first visit to his constituency Wayanad after being reinstated as member of the Lok Sabha on Saturday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi mounted a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP over the situation in riot-torn Manipur.

Addressing a rousing reception arranged by the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee here, Rahul accused the PM and his cabinet of having 'fun and a laughter' during the recent discussion in Parliament on Manipur.

"BJP has killed the idea of India in Manipur. Thousands of families have been destroyed there due to its policy. During his two-hour-thirteen-minute-long speech in Parliament, he laughed, joked and smiled and spoke about everything — about Congress, about me, about INDIA alliance. But, he spoke just two minutes about Manipur," said Rahul.

Rahul Gandhi with a beneficiary of a housing project in Kalpetta | B GOKUL

The Congress leader said his party will look to rebuild Manipur , which has been broken by BJP. "It may take five or more years to restore the love, affection and mutual respect... But, we will do it," he said.

Rahul alleged that thousands of families have been destroyed in Manipur by the BJP's policy. "How dare you (Modi) do this. How can you disrespect the idea of India. Anybody who murders the idea of India cannot be a nationalist," the Congress leader charged.

Rahul thanked the people of Wayanad for their support. "They (BJP) think if they disqualify me, my ties with Wayanad will weaken. You have protected me; you gave me love; you gave me affection; you gave me respect. You can disqualify even a hundred times, but the relationship will become only stronger," said Rahul.

EXPRESS READ

Sudha Murty part of NCERT committee

Bengaluru: Infosys Foundation Chairperson Sudha Murty will be part of an NCERT panel to revise textbooks for Classes 3-12, according to the new curriculum under NEP. P7

TN, K'taka must share rain distress: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

IN view of Tamil Nadu government's persistent demand for release of Cauvery water, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that Karnataka has also been hit by poor monsoon and the lower riparian state should share the distress with it.

Addressing reporters here, he said the failure of monsoon has pushed both states into distress. The weak monsoon in the Wayanad region of Kerala and Kodagu district, catchment areas of the Cauvery and Kabini, has affected the inflow into KRS and Kabini reservoirs. Siddaramaiah said Karnataka always released surplus water to Tamil Nadu, but could not release it now because of the weak monsoon.

Tamil Nadu has raised an objection against Karnataka for not releasing its share of Cauvery water fixed by the Tribunal. "We should also take into consideration the drinking water shortage and the distress faced by farmers, who are unable to irrigate their standing crops, in the state," he said.

Water rationing

With poor inflow into the reservoir, the Irrigation Department has decided to adopt an on-and-off system to release water for standing crops in the Kabini "achukut" area.

Presiding over a meeting of the Irrigation Consultative Committee, district in-charge Minister HC Mahadevappa said water will be released for 15 days a month till October.

He said the Kabini catchment area, which is supposed to get 1829.1mm rain so far this monsoon, recieved only 881mm, resulting in a deficit of 52%. Mahadevappa said water will be released for irrigation till December if the region recieved good rainfall in the coming days.

He said 6.5 tmcft of water from Kabini is needed to meet the drinking water needs of Bengaluru and other towns.

India get their ACT together

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

IT rained on AR Rahman's parade on the outskirts of the city. The Oscar winner's concert had to be cancelled as a result. Malaysia almost threatened to do something similar but India held on to pick up their first gold since the FIH Series Finals in Bhubaneswar in 2019.

If the 5-0 win over Japan in the semifinals was flawless, this was anything but... Mayhem. Drama. Fun. This pulled at the heartstrings of the capacity crowd before the final release of energy before the final hooter had sounded. A truly madcap 60 minutes had finished India 4-3 Malaysia, with Akashdeep Singh scoring the winner four minutes from time at the Asian Champions Trophy final here on Saturday.

Watched on by former world chess champion, Viswanathan Anand, the women's hockey team, Tamil Nadu chief minister, MK Stalin and Union sports minister, Anurag Thakur, among other dignitaries, it seemed like Malaysia were going to poop on India's party. They trailed early on but a great second quarter from their perspective gave them a two-goal cushion at the half-time break. New India coach, Craig Fulton, has tried to instill in them the value of discipline, maintaining balance and structure and attacking whilst keeping the defence secure. His wards, though, had seemingly forgotten their homework. However, this team also thrives in chaos and that proved to be the difference.

Victorious India team with TN Chief Minister M K Stalin (C), TN sports minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur | ASHWIN PRASATH

While Fulton will look at this match as a learning experience before the crucial Asian Games next month, it's always good to have matches like this before big events. It develops character and gives the team belief that they are capable of recovering lost causes. This is also their second Asian title in this stadium after the Asia Cup win in 2007.

With an Olympic berth at stake in Asian Games (gold medallist), India will be hoping to find order in chaos soon.

Doctors face bitter prescription pill

KAVITA BAJELI DATT @ New Delhi

DOCTORS prescribing non-generic drugs will soon land in hot water. The National Medical Commission (NMC) in a notification dated August 2 advised doctors to prescribe only generic drugs, failing which they would be penalised and may even see their license to practice suspended.

Though it has been mandatory for doctors to prescribe only generic drugs, until now, the violators did not face action. In its notification titled 'Regulations relating to Professional Conduct of Registered Medical Practitioners', the NMC said India's out-of-pocket spending on medications accounts for a major proportion of public spending on healthcare.

"Generic medicines are 30 to 80% cheaper than branded drugs. Hence, prescribing generic medicines may overtly bring down healthcare costs and improve access to quality care," the commission elaborated.

Warning for first violation

In case of the first violation, a doctor may be given a warning and instructed to attend a workshop or academic programme on ethics, personal and social relations, and/or professional training.

On repeated violations, the doctor's license to practice may be suspended, the notification said.

Under the regulations on prescription guidelines, the commission defined generic medicines as a "drug product that is comparable to brand/reference listed product in dosage form, strength, route of administration, quality and performance characteristics, and intended use".

The commission also asked doctors to avoid prescribing branded generic drugs.

A branded generic drug is one which has come off patent and is manufactured by pharmaceutical companies and sold under the brand names of different companies.

PALIKE BLAZE

3 staffers summoned, quizzed for 10 hours

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU City Police on Saturday summoned three BBMP employees in connection with Friday's fire at the Palike's laboratory and questioned them for nearly 10 hours.

"We are not doubting our BBMP employees. But there is a procedure we have to follow. Halasuru Gate police summoned three officials and they were interrogated," BBMP Engineer-in-Chief BS Prahalad told *The New Sunday Express*.

Based on Prahalad's complaint, police registered an FIR under IPC Section 337 (Causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), IPC 338 (Causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others).

A senior police officer said assistant executive engineers Anand and Swamy, and Group D employee Suresh were given notice to appear before the investigation officers at 10 am on Saturday. "They came to the police station at 10 am and were questioned until 8.30pm. If needed, they will be asked to appear before the investigation officers on Monday."

Sources said the employees were questioned as to how they managed to escape without any injury when nine others suffered burns. P3

BOX OFFICE

Jailer rocks, shows the inevitable triumph of the Superstar brand

SUDHIR SRINIVASAN @ Chennai

THE release of Rajinikanth's *Jailer* may not have coincided with a festival — as is usually the norm with such releases — but it may as well have. The film is the talk of the town — and the hype has translated to early box-office numbers as well, with the film reported to have collected more than ₹100 crore, in under three days of its release. What's particularly impressive is how it seems to be faring well across regions — especially in the Telugu states, where reports suggest that Superstar Rajinikanth's film is dominating the native release, Megastar Chiranjeevi's *Bhola Shankar*.

Jailer's success beyond Tamil Nadu borders isn't an accident; markings of it can be seen in the 'Pan-Indian' casting, with top actors across languages (including Mohan Lal and Shivarajkumar) stepping in for cameos during the second half. It is by design that Rajinikanth delivers punchlines in Hindi and Telugu, and speaks a bit of Kannada as well.

Rajini's Japanese fans in Chennai | PTI

Naturally, at the heart of all this success is Rajinikanth, towering like a colossus, enthusiastic as ever to prove his box-office credentials. As sacrilegious as it may be to say this about a star who has remained at the top of his career for more than 50 years, there have been doubts, following the average reception to his last two films, *Darbar* and *Annaatthe*; there were raised eyebrows about the director, Nelson Dilipkumar, whose last film, *Beast*, didn't quite work as expected.

The jury has also been out on whether new-age filmmakers possess the know-how to handle the Superstar's all-consuming legacy. Must they reinvent Rajinikanth, like Hindi cinema did Amitabh Bachchan? Or must they capitalise on nostalgia and cater to a loyal fan-base that demands recreation of old joys?

Jailer has sought to achieve a balance between both. There is enough fan service in here (including tropes and shots that hark back to the 90s), but there are also clever tweaks aimed at making the most of a 72-year-old Rajinikanth. He plays a retired cop; he remains a meek grandfather for a while. Even when the inevitable *Baasha* transformation occurs, there's little fist-fighting; his allies often step up when he's in a state of bother. He isn't dancing in duets; he isn't coveting a young woman. More than a year ago, another film — *Vikram* — did all of this with the other great star of Tamil cinema, Kamal Haasan, to great success.

Jailer, which loses quite a bit of ground in its second half, may not go on to shatter records as *Vikram* did, but its early success once again emphasises what we have always known about the enduring success of the likes of Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan. Form is temporary, but class... that's permanent.